



KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1947

by

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



# THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

1947

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :  
COUNCILLOR G. A. HOLCH, J.P.

CHAIRMAN : ... .. Councillor E. JACKSON

VICE-CHAIRMAN ... Councillor H. C. DUNCALF

Councillor B. P. ABBOTT

„ B. AYKROYD

„ C. COOPER

„ H. CORPS

„ MRS. M. H. DOBSON

*To the Chairman and Members of the*

# KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration my first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district for the year 1947.

I took up my appointment on the 1st April, and at the same time assumed responsibility as Divisional Medical Officer of the West Riding County Council, for the day to day administration of the County Health Services in the district, these duties including responsibility for maternity and child welfare and school medical work. In this dual capacity I am in a position to correlate the public health work in the district.

I desire to acknowledge the support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee since my appointment, and to record my appreciation of the work of Mr. Eatough and Mr. Jennings. Mr. Jennings has been responsible for much of the work incorporated in this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. D. PAYNE,  
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
KNARESBOROUGH.

*September, 1948.*



# **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

**1947**

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## **Medical Officer of Health :**

D. F. DOBSON, M.B., D.P.H. ... (Resigned 31.3.47)

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., D.P.H. ... (Appointed 1.4.47)

## **Deputy Medical Officer of Health :**

E. M. WRIGHT, B.M., B.CH., D.P.H. ... (Appointed 1.4.47)

## **Medical Officer to the Joint Isolation Hospital :**

D. F. DOBSON, M.B., D.P.H.

## **Sanitary Inspector :**

H. EATOUGH, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I. ... (Resigned 31.8.47)

W. JENNINGS, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I. ... (Appointed 1.11.47)

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,488
Population (mid-summer 1947, estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,930
Number of inhabited houses			...	...	...	...	2,353
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£50,627
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			...	...	...	...	£198
	Males			Females			
Live Births	{ Legitimate 75 } { Illegitimate 3 }	...78		Legitimate 70 } Illegitimate 5 }	...75	Total	153
Birth Rate (Live Births per 1,000 estimated population)							22·1
	Males			Females			
Still Births	{ Legitimate 3 } { Illegitimate 1 }	...4		Legitimate 1 } Illegitimate 1 }	...2	Total	6
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births							37·7
Number of Deaths—Male 49, Female 59					...	...	108
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	15·6
Deaths from Puerperal causes			...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age				Legitimate 6 } Illegitimate 0 }			6
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :							
All Infants per 1,000 live births			...	...	...		39·2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births							41·4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births							0·00
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis		...	3		Rate		0·43
Deaths from other Tuberculous diseases				Nil	„		0·00
Deaths from Scarlet Fever		...	...	Nil	„		0·00
Deaths from Diphtheria		...	...	Nil	„		0·00
Deaths from Typhoid and Paratyphoid		...		Nil	„		0·00
Deaths from Measles		...	...	Nil	„		0·00
Deaths from Whooping Cough		...	...	Nil	„		0·00
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		...		Nil	„		0·00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		...	...	14	„		2·02

## Section A.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area is mainly agricultural and residential.

There are a number of small industries in the town comprising a Saw Mill, Plastic Goods Factory, a Manufactory of Children's School Clothing and a Linen Weaving Mill.

POPULATION. The Population as at the middle of 1947 is estimated by the Registrar-General at 6,930.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered in Knaresborough during the year was 65, 31 males and 34 females, but the corrected\* figure supplied by the Registrar-General is 153, 78 males and 75 females. The birth rate is 22.1 per 1,000 of the population, which is 1.6 above the rate for England and Wales.

There were 8 illegitimate births, 3 males and 5 females, representing 5.3 per cent of the live births.

STILL-BIRTHS. The corrected\* still-birth figure supplied by the Registrar-General is 6, 4 males and 2 females, this gives a rate of 37.7 per 1,000 total births and a still-birth rate of 0.87 per 1,000 of the population as compared with a still-birth rate of 0.50 for England and Wales.

DEATHS. The number of deaths registered during the year was 194, 62 males and 132 females, but the corrected\* number of deaths of residents as supplied by the Registrar-General is 108, 49 males and 59 females. The death rate is 15.6, which is a decrease of 1.0 as compared with last year; it is, however, 3.6 above the rate for England and Wales (12.0).

INSTITUTIONAL DEATHS. Of the 194 deaths registered in the district, 123 occurred in public institutions, representing 63.4 per cent. of the whole number.

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\* The corrections made by the Registrar-General adjust the number for inward and outward transfers.

## Section B.

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Harrogate and District General Hospital continues to supply most of the medical and surgical treatment in cases requiring admission to Hospital.

The Royal Bath Hospital, Harrogate, renders specialised treatment in cases of rheumatism and skin diseases.

The Joint Isolation Hospital, Thistle Hill, Knaresborough, provides for all cases of infectious disease, except Small Pox.

The Small Pox Hospital, Skipton Road, Harrogate, was closed on the 19th March, 1947, and arrangements were made between the Joint Hospital Board and the City of Leeds for patients from this area to be admitted to Seacroft Hospital.

Hospital provision for the area is regarded as adequate.

Ambulance facilities are provided by arrangement with the West Riding County Council Ambulance Service, the Ambulance Depot being in Harrogate. After October 1st this service was provided free of charge by the County Council.

The Joint Isolation Hospital Committee maintains an ambulance for the removal of infectious diseases to the Isolation Hospital and for this no charge is made.

Maternity cases are either admitted to the Harrogate General Hospital Maternity Ward or to Institutions under the control of the West Riding County Council, i.e. Hazelwood Castle, etc.

Nursing in the home is provided by the Knaresborough and Goldsborough District Nursing Association, three nurses being employed in the area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres are set out in tabular form on page 7.



# KNARESBOROUGH

## SCHOOL CLINIC AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

SCHOOL CLINIC	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
General School Clinic ...	9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	...	...	9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.	...
Ophthalmic Clinic ...	...	...	...		9-0 a.m. (by appointment only)
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE					
Child Welfare Centre ...	...	1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	...	*1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.	...
Ante-Natal Clinic ...	1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.	...	...	...	...

\* Every 2nd and 4th THURSDAY in Month only.

## Section C.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water.

Water is supplied and distributed by Harrogate Corporation and has been excellent in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Extensions to the service to serve the new Meadowside Housing Estate were in progress during the year.

There are a small number of the older houses in the town without separate supplies of water inside the houses. The only premises taking water from wells are isolated farms and farm cottages. Frequent sampling of water from these premises is carried out by the Department.

### Public Cleansing.

House and Trade Refuse is collected by two Karrier Bantam Refuse Vehicles of seven cubic yard capacity. During the year due to the new Meadowside Estate it was found necessary to supplement the one vehicle on this service by the second vehicle for two days a week. A weekly collection of all house and trade refuse has been maintained thereby and in the case of those hotels and cafes desiring it, a twice weekly service is offered at a charge in accordance with the Council's Scale of Trade Refuse Charges.

Trade refuse collection was put on a sound financial footing during the year and the scale of charges mentioned above for weekly collection and disposal instituted.

Refuse is disposed of by Controlled Tipping methods at Manse Lane Tip. This tip is now almost filled and should last a further eighteen to twenty-four months at present rates of filling.

During the year 273 informal notices and 17 legal notices were served under Section 75 in respect of insufficient or defective refuse receptacles.

**WASHING FACILITIES.** In December the provision of washing facilities for the Refuse Collection and Disposal Personnel were completed. These are situated in Iles lane Depot and consist of a recreation and clothes drying room and a washing room equipped with two modern wash-basins and shower bath, constant hot water being available in the evenings, or after inclement weather, from a coke-fired boiler. The cost was borne from the profits of the sale of Salvage Materials.

The cost of the Public Cleansing Service during the year ended 31st March, 1948 was :—

#### REFUSE COLLECTION :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages .....	952	15	9			
Mech. Vehicles .....	370	3	7			
Transfer to Reserve .....	150	0	0			
Part Cost of Depot .....	30	0	0			
Misc. ....	7	18	5			
	<hr/>			1,510	17	9

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL :—

Wages .....	201	0	2			
Rent and Rates .....	34	17	0			
Misc. ....	30	16	0			
	<hr/>			266	13	2

#### TRADE REFUSE :—

Wages & Haulage....	5	9	0			
	<hr/>			5	9	0
				<hr/>		
				1,782	19	11

#### REVENUE :—

Trade Refuse .....	48	9	10			
Tipping Charges .....	9	17	0			
Grazing .....	2	0	0			
	<hr/>			60	6	10
				<hr/>		
Nett Cost of Service				£1,722	13	1
				<hr/>		

#### Salvage.

Salvage formed an important part of the Department's activities in 1947 and the following are the amounts sold during this and the past years :—

	1947	1946	1945	1944
Paper .....	37.3 Tons	42.3 Tons	41.4 Tons	43.1 Tons
Rags .....	2.3 Tons	2.1 Tons	2.3 Tons	3.7 Tons
Scrap Metal....	4.2 Tons	3.0 Tons	1.3 Tons	2.2 Tons
Bottles & Jars	2,530 doz.	3,088 doz.	355 doz.	185 doz.

A special weekly collection on Thursday mornings from trade premises was maintained during the year.

An incentive bonus of 5% per man of all receipts above £400 during the financial year 1947-48 was instituted by the Council in an effort to increase the amount of Salvage. The scheme was instituted at a time when interest in salvage was waining and has stimulated the collection of these valuable raw materials which were formerly considered to be only "refuse."

The receipts from Salvaged Materials during the financial year ended 31st March, 1948 was £624 7s. 3d., a welcome improvement compared with recent years as shown below :—

<i>Year ended</i> <i>31st March.</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Receipts.</i>
1941 ....	£122	£256
1942 ....	£198	£380
1943 ....	£280	£632
1944 ....	£287	£434
1945 ....	£192	£490
1946 ....	£223	£288
1947 ....	£279	£394
1948 ....	£354*	£624
	<hr/> £1935 <hr/>	<hr/> £3498 <hr/>

\* Excluding cost of showers.

The contribution to relieve the rates has been over £1,400 up to the present.

### **Sewers and Drains.**

Portions of the District which were added at the Review of County Districts in 1938 remain unsewered, i.e., part of Crag Top, Wetherby Road, York Road, and Ripley Road. The temporary work done at Mossops Estate has served a useful purpose in alleviating a bad nuisance but permanent sewerage for all these areas is an urgent necessity.

Approx. 100 yards of new surface water drain was laid in the Halfpenny Lane Area during the year to relieve the flooding in this locality, which has occurred in the past during heavy rainfalls by reason of the foul sewers becoming overloaded with surface water.



### **Public Conveniences.**

The provision of new conveniences for both sexes in the centre of the town is still an urgent necessity and the Council considered several sites though no site suitable in all respects was found during 1947

There has also been a need for Public Conveniences in the High Bridge locality, but with the development of Conyngham Hall as a Public Pleasure Ground and Park the need for these amenities in this area is now more pressing than ever. The Council are considering building conveniences.

### **Factories.**

The factories have been inspected regularly and a number of contraventions found, whilst one complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. The defects were remedied by informal action.

There are 48 factories on the Register, consisting of 12 factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act is enforced by the Local Authority, 34 factories where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. There are two building operations in progress where Section 7 is enforced by the Council.

The following is a table of the defects found during the year and action taken :—

## CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars  (1)	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient ...	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	4	—	1	—

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections and visits made	....	....	873
Number of nuisances found	....	....	81
Number of nuisances in hand at 31/12/46	....	....	15
Number of nuisances abated during 1947	....	....	68
Number outstanding at 31/12/47	....	....	28
Number of informal notices served	....	....	60
Number complied with	....	....	44
Formal notices served	....	....	28

Legal proceedings were taken in one instance under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, and a "Nuisance Order" made, this being complied with.

### Smoke Abatement.

On account of the difficult fuel position during 1947, engineers were having to burn most unsuitable fuels—yet in spite of this no serious nuisances were discovered.

With an improvement in the fuel position more attention will be given to ensure compliance with the law.

### Shops.

Regular inspection of shops takes place and the several infringements of Section 10 of the 1934 Act were remedied informally.

### Premises and Occupations Controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

Number of licensed camping sites	....	....	5
Number of licensed movable dwellings	....	....	1
Offensive trades—Rag and Bone Dealers	....	....	1

The camping sites are all well patronised during the summer period and are gradually being brought up to a standard as laid down in the Regulations adopted by the Council in 1944. Due to the Housing shortage, many of these dwellings are being used on a permanent basis and the accommodation, being very sub-standard, is leading to a state of affairs which is not in the best interests of camping.

One site in Abbey Road which the Council refused to licence in October was still being used for camping purposes at the end of the year.

## Swimming Baths or Pools.

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the Area.

## Schools.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional School Medical Officer and in this capacity visited all the Schools in the Area during the year. Several defects were found and a report was submitted to the Divisional Education Officer of the W.R.C.C.

## Infestation.

The number of vermin-Infested premises noted remains small.

In November 1947 the sewers in the Area were test baited for rats and where Infestation was found a treatment was carried out.

Complaints of rat infestation were investigated and advice and help given, as a result of which several minor infestations were cleared.

The Council's refuse tip was found to be rat infested in November and successfully dealt with, as a result of which the infestation has been cleared.

This year again, in connection with the Sewer Treatment, advantage was taken of the Ministry of Food scheme of financial assistance and the treatments carried out in accordance with their requirements.

## Section D.

## HOUSING

On account of the difficult housing and economic position during the year very little formal action under the Housing Acts was undertaken, though there was some informal action. Four Notices under Section 9 were served and the required work was in progress during the year.

NEW HOUSES. On the Meadows Estate 43 houses were completed and 17 were in the course of erection.

Four houses were built by private enterprise.

At the end of the year the Council still had a waiting list of over 300 for Council houses.



## Section E.

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## Milk.

The 13 Registered cowsheds and dairies have been inspected regularly and are kept in a reasonable condition of cleanliness. Three of the herds are producing Tuberculin Tested milk and there is a further herd of pedigree Jersey cows. The remaining cowsheds have deteriorated in repair over the past few years and need a certain amount of alteration to reach present day standards.

Production and sale of milk is reasonably clean and results of samples taken are as follows :—

TYPE OF MILK	SAMPLES TAKEN BY			
	Department		W.R.C.C.	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised ...	2	1	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	6	—	3	—
Ordinary ...	14	4	—	—
Total ...	22	5	3	—

There are 22 retail purveyors of milk on the Register, six of whom hold “T.T ” Dealers’ Licences, three “Pasturised” Dealers’ Licences, three “Supplementary ” “T.T.” and three Supplementary “Pasteurised ” Licences.

There are nine wholesale producers of milk.

## Meat.

Slaughterhouses in the District are kept closed by Ministry of Food order and slaughtering for the District is carried out in Harrogate.

Regular inspections of Butchers' shops are made where conditions found are satisfactory.

## Ice Cream.

Important legislation in the form of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 came into force during the year as a result of which four local manufacturers have decided to use the "Hot-Mix" method of production, and five the "Cold-Mix" method. Some former manufacturers have decided to retail only in the future. Two of the manufacturers using the "Hot-Mix" method had new factories completed by the end of the year, a third was commenced and the fourth was in the plan stage. In no case had the equipment arrived at the end of the year.

The "Cold-Mix" manufacturers were all asked to provide separate mixing rooms and these were in progress in three cases at the end of the year.

Thirty-seven samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

Grade 1	....	....	....	....	....	25
Grade 2	....	....	....	....	....	5
Grade 3	....	....	....	....	....	7
Grade 4	....	....	....	....	....	0

Five of the grade 3 results were samples taken on one day, which was extremely hot. The two other Grade 3 results were from the same manufacturer. These results therefore indicate that for the most part the manufacturers in Knaresborough are producing a bacteriologically clean product. The approved standard is that 80% of the samples taken from a producer during a season should fall into Grades 1, 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

## Other Foods.

Routine inspections are regularly carried out at all food preparing premises such as bakehouses, cafe and hotel kitchens and manufacturerd food premises. Generally speaking, conditions are fairly satisfactory.

There is close co-operation between the Local Food Executive Officer and your Sanitary Inspector and this has resulted in new food premises conforming with the Local Authorities, requirements before food licences are granted—a most desirable arrangement.

The advent of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 heralded a new era in hygienic food production but the recent war has marred the progress there would no doubt have been ; as supplies of labour, building and packing material again become available we shall undoubtedly see considerable progress in this field of food hygiene.

The Medical Officer of Health attended a National Conference on Food and Drink infections organised by the Central Council for Health Education during October.

### Section F.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

With the exception of measles there was little infectious disease in the district during the year.

There were 190 cases of measles reported, this epidemic occurring during the summer months, when measles was prevalent also throughout the country. The cases were fortunately mild in character, complications were rare and no fatal cases occurred.

Outbreaks of measles tend to be periodic in character as susceptible children grow up who have not had the infection.

Four cases of acute poliomyelitis were reported, one in July, two in August and one in September. Two of these cases were abortive, no paralysis followed the infection. Of the remaining cases one made a complete recovery, but the other will be left with some disability due to partial paralysis of one arm.

These cases of poliomyelitis arose during the widespread epidemic of poliomyelitis in the British Isles.

The complete absence of diphtheria during the year was notable and is attributable at least in part to the success of the vigorous campaign of diphtheria immunisation. During the year

110 children under five were immunised together with 24 school children, whilst 218 children received a reinforcing injection where the degree of immunity had been diminished by the length of time since their initial inoculation.

Scarlet Fever cases dropped from a total of 17 in 1946 to 6 in 1947, and the cases which occurred were very mild in character.

Eight cases of pulmonary and four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified compared with five cases of pulmonary and one of non-pulmonary during 1946.

The following tables give the incidence of notifiable disease during the year and an analysis of the cases under age groups.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the Year

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	6	4	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	4	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—
Measles ... ..	190	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	9	—	—



## Analysis of Cases under age Groups

AGE GROUP	Scarlet Fever	Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis	Pneu-monia	Ophthal-mia Neona-torum	Measles	Puerpe-ral Pyrexia	Whoop-ing Cough
0	—	—	—	3	3	—	1
1-2	—	—	—	—	15	—	1
2-3	—	—	—	—	22	—	—
3-4	—	—	—	—	26	—	3
4-5	—	1	—	—	27	—	3
5-10	4	1	—	—	91	—	—
10-15	1	—	—	—	5	—	—
15-20	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
20-35	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
45-65	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	4	1	3	190	1	9

## Tuberculosis

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947

Age Groups at notification	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	3	5	1	3	2	1	—	—





